



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
PROPERTY AND SPECIAL TAXES DEPARTMENT
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January 30, 2004

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY

No. 2004/005

A copy of the Santa Barbara County Assessment Practices Survey Report is enclosed for your information. The Board of Equalization (BOE) completed this survey in fulfillment of the provisions of sections 15640-15646 of the Government Code. These code sections provide that the BOE shall make surveys in each county and city and county to determine that the practices and procedures used by the county assessor in the valuation of properties are in conformity with all provisions of law.

The Honorable Joseph E. Holland, Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder and Assessor, was provided a draft of this report and given an opportunity to file a written response to the findings and recommendations contained therein. The report, including the assessor's response, constitutes the final survey report which is distributed to the Governor, the Attorney General, and the State Legislature; and to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Grand Jury, and Assessment Appeals Board.

Fieldwork for this survey was performed by the BOE's County Property Tax Division from September 2002 through February 2003. The report does not reflect changes implemented by the assessor after the fieldwork was completed.

Mr. Holland, current assessor, Mr. Pettit, former assessor, and staff gave their complete cooperation during the survey. We gratefully acknowledge their patience and courtesy during the interruption of their normal work routine.

These survey reports give government officials in California charged with property tax administration the opportunity to exchange ideas for the mutual benefit of all participants and stakeholders. We encourage you to share with us your questions, comments, and suggestions for improvement.

Sincerely,

/s/ David J. Gau
David J. Gau
Deputy Director
Property and Special Taxes Department

DJG:jm
Enclosure